



## Press Release

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## **American Ambassador Hosts U.S. Independence Day Celebration**

LIMA, July 4, 2012 – U.S. Ambassador Rose M. Likins welcomed some 750 guests to her residence this evening for an American-style Fourth of July celebration. This year marks the 236<sup>th</sup> year of the independence of the United States of America. Among the guests were Minister of Foreign Affairs Rafael Roncagliolo. The program featured the colorful pageantry of the presentation of colors ceremony by the U.S. Marine Guard detachment in full dress uniform. Guests sampled typical American barbeque fare and listened to popular American music representing hits by U.S. artists from decades past and present. The evening finale was a spectacular fireworks display.

In her remarks, Ambassador Likins noted the coincidence that the United States and Peru both celebrate their independence days in the month of July. Referred to Peru as a nation that shares with the American people the cherished ideals of democracy, she commented, "Our partnership is one based on mutual respect, common interests, and shared values."

It was in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, that the members of the Continental Congress representing all 13 of the original colonies signed the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, the declaration contains enduring phrases of liberty, most notably the inspiring words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Americans typically celebrate the Fourth of July with parades, fireworks and outdoor activities including barbecues.

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